FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT
WATER SUPPLY WELLS AT PELHAM RANGE
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MAY 2004

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The wells are located in four separate areas within Pelham Range at FTMC, as shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of groundwater sampling completed at the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at these sites with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range. The background documents for the water supply wells are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WATER SUPPLY WELLS AT PELHAM RANGE

IT Corporation, 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2003, ***Final Water Supply Well Report for Pelham Range,*** Revision 1, May.

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM), 1999, ***Draft Preliminary Assessment No. 38-EH-1775-99, Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, June.

Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Water supply wells were identified at the following locations within Pelham Range (Figure 1):

- Security Operational Test Site (SOTS)
- SOTS Administration Building 8203
- Rideout Hall Building 8801
- Range 57.

The wells provide non-potable water (i.e., non-drinkable) used during military training exercises (e.g., for personnel and equipment washing, lavatories). Warning signs are present at each of the water supply wells indicating that they are for non-potable use only. A 1999 report by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM) indicated that explosive compounds were detected in at least one of the wells during sampling conducted by the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency in 1983 or 1984. However, the analytical data could not be located for verification. The CHPPM report recommended collecting samples from each of the wells and analyzing the samples for explosive compounds (CHPPM, 1999).

GROUNDWATER SAMPLING

In October 2000, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw) (formerly IT Corporation) collected samples from each of the four water supply wells to determine if chemical constituents are present in groundwater at these sites (Shaw, 2003). All samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), and explosive compounds. The water supply well at the SOTS facility was resampled in February 2003 for metals only because the initial sample was turbid (i.e., cloudy).

Various metals were detected in the water supply well samples. In addition, one VOC and one SVOC were detected in one sample each. Explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples. To evaluate whether the detected constituents pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk assessments for investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals results exceeding SSSLs were compared to background screening values (SAIC, 1998).

The concentrations of six metals (arsenic, barium, copper, iron, thallium, and zinc) exceeded their respective SSSLs and background concentrations in the samples. Thallium was present in the sample from the SOTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Administration Building 8203 well. The remainder of the metals were present in the samples from the SOTS and Rideout Hall wells that were turbid at the time of sample collection. Resampling of the SOTS well confirmed that the initial elevated metals results were caused by high sample turbidity.

The VOC chloroform was detected in the SOTS water supply well at an estimated concentration (0.0013 milligrams per liter [mg/L]) exceeding its SSSL (0.0012 mg/L). Although an EPA drinking water standard for chloroform does not exist, the compound's concentration was well below the drinking water standard of 0.08 mg/L for total trihalomethanes, which include chloroform. VOCs were not detected in any of the other water supply wells sampled.

The SVOC bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate was detected in the Range 57 water supply well at an estimated concentration (0.0048 mg/L) exceeding its SSSL (0.0043 mg/L). Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, however, is a common sample contaminant and was not considered to be site-related. SVOCs were not detected in any of the other water supply wells sampled.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in the water supply wells do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, these sites are released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further

action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range. There are no remedial costs associated with this course of action.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Water Supply Wells at Pelham Range. The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require land-use control restrictions. The wells are released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CHPPM	U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FTMC	Fort McClellan
mg/L	milligrams per liter
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
Shaw	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
SOTS	Security Operational Test Site
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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